

12. Australia and the United States will continue to work closely to advance energy security and climate change issues internationally through other multilateral partnerships, including the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, the Methane to Markets Partnership, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership and the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy.

13. Important work has also been accomplished bilaterally under the auspices of the Australia-United States Climate Action Partnership and both countries are committed to further action. Progress has been made in the areas of climate change science and monitoring, agriculture and forestry, approaches to managing High Global Warming Potential Gases (synthetic greenhouse gases) and policy tools and approaches to addressing climate change.

14. We will also endeavor under the Montreal Protocol to ensure the recovery of the ozone layer to pre-1980 levels by accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs in a way that supports energy efficiency and climate change objectives. We will continue to exercise leadership in the development of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

15. The recently-concluded Australia-United States Agreement relating to Scientific and Technical Cooperation will promote collaboration between scientists in both countries on world-leading research and technology development, including in the area of climate change.

16. In recognition of the importance of global action on climate change and energy, the United States welcomes Australia's participation in the FutureGen International Partnership, a major United States-led international project aimed at building a prototype plant that integrates coal gasification and carbon capture and storage to produce electricity with near-zero emissions. This demonstrates and underscores the commitment of both countries to the development and deployment of clean coal technologies.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Prime Minister John Howard of Australia in Sydney

September 5, 2007

Thank you. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your hospitality. Janette, thank you for joining us.

So the Prime Minister said, "Do you want to eat lunch with some of our finest citizens?" I said, "Sure." He said, "Fine, I'm going to introduce you to the Australian Defense Force folks." And I appreciate you having me. It's a nice barbecue you threw for us. Looking forward to a little cowboy music. [Laughter] But most of all, I've been looking forward to saying thanks for those who wear the uniform.

These are tough times. They're times I know that your families wonder whether or not it's worth it for you to be in the military. For those of you who have been to Iraq or Afghanistan—I saw this wounded man over here—you know that people wonder, is it worth it? Is it worth the sacrifice? And I told some folks today at a press conference, if it wasn't worth it for our own peace and security, I wouldn't put our own troops in.

I believe the work that you're doing alongside our forces is necessary for peace. I believe we are writing one of the great chapters in the history of liberty and peace. And the Prime Minister has given me a chance to thank you; so I want to thank you. You've got a fabulous military.

I talked to our folks all the time about what is it like to be side by side with the Aussies again. And they say, "It's a great honor and a privilege." And so thanks for being in the military. Thanks for representing your country. Thanks for making the sacrifice necessary for peace. The work you're doing is necessary work, and we're going to win. And we'll succeed. And when people look back at this chapter in the history of the world, they're going to say, "Thank God there were folks like you all."

So, Mr. Prime Minister, I'm honored to be with you. May God bless you all. May God bless our countries. Thanks for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. at Garden Island. In his remarks, he referred to Janette Howard, wife of Prime Minister Howard. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Howard.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of James A. Nussle as Director of the Office of Management and Budget
September 5, 2007

I thank the Senate for its strong bipartisan vote confirming Jim Nussle as Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Jim's confirmation comes at a critical time for our Nation's budget as Congress considers this year's annual spending bills. With less than a month until the new fiscal year begins, Congress has not sent any of the 12 appropriations bills to my desk. We must work together quickly to get the people's work done on time.

Jim is a strong advocate for fiscal discipline and pro-growth economic policies, and he will help lead efforts to balance the budget by 2012 by restraining Federal spending and keeping taxes low. And as OMB Director, he will work to provide transparency regarding Federal spending and earmarks, strong accountability in Government, and better results for taxpayers.

I congratulate Jim and his family on today's confirmation and thank him for his continued service to our Nation.

Proclamation 8172—National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 2007
September 4, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Education is a fundamental part of achieving the American dream, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) help ensure that every student has the opportunity to pursue a quality education. During Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, we underscore our commitment to

these distinguished institutions in their efforts to provide more Americans with the tools to realize their dreams.

The founding of many of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities over a century ago expanded the American education system and extended the opportunity of a higher education to some who had been wrongly denied access. Today, HBCUs throughout our Nation continue to be centers of quality education, advancing opportunity and inspiring individuals to meet the challenges of our time as responsible leaders.

My Administration has increased Federal support for HBCUs and remains committed to strengthening these colleges and universities. The HBCU Capital Financing Program has provided access to funds for infrastructure repairs, educational equipment, and construction of new facilities. The President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities works to help HBCUs develop new partnerships with the private sector and benefit from Federal programs to strengthen and advance faculty development and cooperative research.

We will continue to provide our strong support to HBCUs, so that every citizen can enjoy a future of hope and opportunity, and we salute these great institutions as they build on a foundation of continued success for every student.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 9 through September 15, 2007, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in respect and appreciation for the contributions these valuable institutions and their graduates have made to our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush